

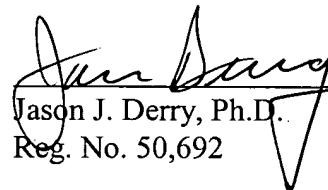
REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification to include a claim of priority to U. S. Patent Application No. 09/449,589, filed on November 29, 1999. Applicants contend that no new matter has been added as a result of the above-described amendment. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner direct any inquiries regarding this communication to the undersigned representative at 312-913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

Dated: March 16, 2004

By:



Jason J. Derry, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 50,692